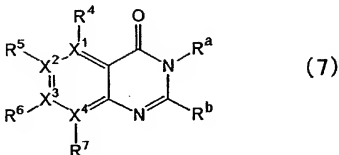


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a pyrimidin-4-one compound of formula (7):



wherein:

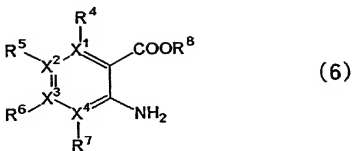
R^a represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbonyl group;

R^b represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 22 carbon atoms, or an aryl group, provided that R^b is not hydrogen when R^a is hydrogen;

R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ each independently ~~are absent or~~ represent hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 22 carbon atoms, or an aryl group; and

X¹, X², X³ and X⁴ each independently represent a carbon atom ~~or a nitrogen atom, provided that, when any of X¹, X², X³ and X⁴ are nitrogen atoms, the corresponding R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ or R⁷ bonded to the nitrogen atom is absent;~~

the method comprising reacting an aminocarboxylic acid compound of formula (6):



wherein each of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 has the meaning as defined above, and R^8 represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 22 carbon atoms, or an aryl group;

with an organic acid compound of formula (4):



wherein R^3 represents a hydrocarbyl group, and R^b has the meaning as defined above;

in an organic solvent in the presence of a nitrogen atom-containing compound of formula (2):



wherein R^a has the meaning as defined above.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is a polar solvent.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the polar solvent is a lower alcohol having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature in the range of 40 to 200°C.

7-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the organic acid compound is ethyl orthoacetate, methyl orthoformate, or methyl orthoacetate.

14-15. (Cancelled).